



## Idaho Commission for Libraries

Summer 2011



### BTOP Budget

Federal funds: \$1,907,531

Matching funds: 942,815\*

Total budget: \$2,850,346

\*Over 20% project match provided by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, augmented with in-kind and resource contributions from ICfL and key partners, including the Idaho Department of Labor, Idaho Public Television, and Idaho Professional-Technical Education.

### BTOP Award Period

August 2010 to July 2012

For more information about the "online @ your library" BTOP project visit <http://libraries.idaho.gov/online>

"online @ your library connects people in rural areas with the resources they need for developing job skills, seeking employment, and accessing many other government and education services. The success of this program is critical for Idaho's future."

- Idaho Department of Labor Director Roger B. Madsen



## BTOP Public Computer Center Project at Idaho Public Libraries

The Idaho Commission for Libraries received a federal Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) award in the Public Computer Center category from the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and is partnering with state agencies and public libraries to:

- Expand broadband capacity in 40% of Idaho's least connected public libraries.
- Upgrade public access computing resources in those libraries.
- Expand online resources statewide.

- Provide library-based workshops centered around online resources.
- Publicize online library resources and free public access at the library.
- Ensure sustainability.

The BTOP project, "online @ your library," is the Commission's statewide initiative to expand access to the Internet and provide free access to job skills training and adult basic education for the unemployed, as well as informal learning resources for children.

### Broadband Access in Idaho

**With 141 locations in Idaho, public libraries play a critical role in public access to online services and resources in workforce development, e-government, and education.**

- **An estimated 232,000 Idahoans—primarily in the state's vast rural areas—do not have access to the jobs and economic opportunity made possible by broadband.<sup>(1)</sup>**
- **An estimated 14 percent of Gem State residents live in areas without broadband availability.<sup>(1)</sup>**
- **Approximately 70 percent of public libraries in Idaho report that they are the only local free public Internet access point in their communities.<sup>(2)</sup>**
- **In 2010, people used public-access Internet at Idaho libraries 2,051,994 times.<sup>(3)</sup> By 2012, this is expected to increase by a factor of ten.**

(1) Federal Communications Commission report at [www.fcc.gov/reports/seventh-broadband-progress-report](http://www.fcc.gov/reports/seventh-broadband-progress-report).

(2) American Library Association State Facts at [www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/ALA\\_LegDay-ID.pdf](http://www.districtdispatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/05/ALA_LegDay-ID.pdf).

(3) Idaho Public Library Statistics at <http://libraries.idaho.gov/page/2010-fy-public-library-statistics>.

## What the BTOP grant covers

- Cost of expanding broadband connectivity in at least 56 public libraries
- Cost of expanded connectivity and bandwidth during the two-year grant period for these public libraries
- Cost of new computers for public-access computing in these public libraries
- New statewide online resources including:
  - LearningExpress Library
  - Scout (Teachers' Domain for library use)
  - Internet2 SEGP
  - online Idaho job seekers workshop
- Direct cost of delivering training to public library staff
- Grant project management

## Project Partners

- Department of Labor
- Idaho Public Television
- Idaho Professional-Technical Education
- State Board of Education
- State Department of Education
- Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON)
- The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation
- National Telecommunications and Information Administration

## BTOP Project Expectations

### ICfL and BTOP project partners will:

- Coordinate to leverage existing state online resources.
- Deliver training to public library staff on E-Rate discounts and online services.
- Coordinate public information about public-access computing in libraries, online services, and workshops in public library computer centers. Idaho Public Television will produce and deliver statewide public information.

### Participating public libraries will:

- Expand their Internet connectivity bandwidth and the number of computers available to the public.
- Partner with regional Adult Basic Education (ABE) centers and the Idaho Department of Labor to introduce adults to online resources.
- Investigate E-Rate funding as a strategy for sustaining their public computing centers.
- Promote and encourage digital literacy.

## New Online Resources Available through the LiLI Portal at [www.lili.org](http://www.lili.org)

### **"Scout"** Coming in late 2011

This online video encyclopedia from Idaho Public Television, WGBH Boston, and PBS Learning Media offers thousands of short videos for student use that support state and national education standards. In addition to including award winning resources from NOVA, Frontline, American Experience, and other national productions, Idaho Public Television is customizing this service with Idaho resources, such as its award-winning fourth-grade history series; its science program for elementary students, Dialogue for Kids; and cataloged video segments highlighting Idaho's natural resources and history from Outdoor Idaho.



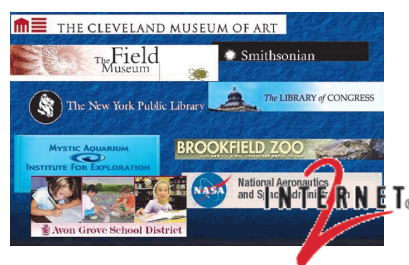
### **Maximize Your Job Search – Online Workshop** Coming in fall 2011

This new online workshop will help anyone making an employment transition. Job seekers can learn about getting started in a job search, setting goals, networking, resumes and cover letters, and interviews, and gain insight directly from the advice and personal experiences of employers and job seekers.



### **Internet2 resources for libraries via Idaho Regional Optical Network (IRON)** Coming in late 2011

Internet2 offers a unique collection of online museums, field-trips, and other resources available only through libraries and K-12 institutions.



## Tutorials and Student Resources Available through the LiLI Portal at [www.lili.org](http://www.lili.org)

### Apangea Learning's Apangea Math: Grades 4-8, Algebra 1, and Geometry

*Available Now*

Apangea Math—an online, supplemental math tutoring program—provides students with instruction, access to live certified teachers, and a motivation program with rewards for working on math problems.

Previously, only schools assigned passwords to students. Since November 2010, staff members at public libraries have the ability to create student accounts and assign passwords. Apangea Math can be accessed from school, home, or public library.



### PLATO Learning

*Available Now*

PLATO Learning provides self-paced intervention and remedial solutions for 9–12 students in language arts, mathematics, and reading curriculum aligned to the Idaho Achievement Standards and Idaho Student Achievement Test (ISAT). A school-assigned password is required to use PLATO at the public library.



Apangea Math and PLATO are available for Idaho students through a partnership with the Idaho State Department of Education.

### LearningExpress Library

*Available since November 2010*

LearningExpress Library provides over 800 up-to-date test-preparation and skill-building resources, helping both students and adults prepare for a wide range of academic and career-oriented exams as well as improve basic skills in reading, writing, and math. In addition, job-skills tutorials are available to assist in creating resumes, honing interviewing techniques, and improving business communications.

Users also have the option of selecting from more than 150 e-book titles to help learners of all ages prepare for success. The platform includes self-paced study, instant scoring, and diagnostic feedback and can be accessed from any computer that has an Internet connection.

### How to Access LearningExpress Library

All users must be authenticated as Idaho residents. To authenticate, access LearningExpress Library through the Libraries Linking Idaho (LiLI) portal at [www.lili.org](http://www.lili.org). Users accessing LearningExpress Library for the first time need to create a personal login and password. That personal login is used when accessing LearningExpress Library from any web-accessible computer.



#### LEARNING CENTERS



# Participating Libraries

online @ your library



## ICfL Mission

The Idaho Commission for Libraries assists libraries to build the capacity to better serve their clientele.

